Security Information

25X1A

9 October 1951

SUBJECT: Overuse of Cryptonyms

　　　1. It is observed that the readability of cables and
dispatches is being hampered in many cases by the unnecessary
and pointless use of cryptonyms.

　　　2. The limitation of the use of cryptonyms, pseudonyms,
and identity designators in cables to the specific cases set
forth in Paragraph 1 of ███████████████████ was <u>not</u> in-   25X1A
tended to mean that cryptonyms <u>must</u> be used in all those cases.
On the contrary, the use of cryptonyms for other than agent
or project references is neither necessary nor desirable in
cable traffic where ordinary cryptographic security is suffi-
cient to protect the security of the information.

　　　3. Cryptonyms should be used in cable traffic only
when the correct name of the subject should be concealed from
the subject himself should the message fall into his hands;
for example, if the message reads "The Department of Under-
statement has failed miserably" or "Jonathan Jawbraker is
suspected of mendacity." No cryptonym should be used if the
message reads "The Department of Understatement did a magnifi-
cent job" or "Jonathan Jawbraker is veracity personified."

　　　4. In dispatch traffic as well, cryptonyms should be
used only when necessary as, for example, when the organization
or person referred to is more sensitive than the remainder of
the dispatch and when the use of the cryptonym will success-
fully disguise the meaning and the subject. It should be re-
membered that nothing is gained by the mere use of a cryptonym
when the correct name of the subject can be easily deduced
from a reading of the context.

　　　　　　　FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS:

████████████████   25X1A9a

　　　　　　　　　　Chief, Administration

Distribution No. 2

SECRET

Security Information

Chief, ADMIN.   15 May 1952

Chief, RI

Need for CIA Regulation Concerning
Cryptic References

1. Due to the current increasing demands for names to be used as aliases and pseudonyms throughout the Agency there is an urgent need for control.

2. It is suggested that the Management Staff be asked to conduct a survey that would result in a CIA Regulation setting Agency Policy regarding the security, procurement, authority, and centralized issuance of aliases and pseudonyms.

25X1A

Such a regulation could be to this problem as CIA Regulation

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25X1A

3. This problem has been brought to a focus by the publication of OPC Bulletin ██████ dated 12 May 1952 (copy attached), which was not coordinated with RI/OSO.

25X1A

Enclosure- 1
    OPC Bulletin ████████
                12 May 1952

Next 9 Page(s) In Document Exempt